



☒ Examiner's attention is drawn to the following co-pending applications: Serial No. 09/105,401

filed June 26, 1998, Serial No. 09/140,979 filed August 27, 1998 and Serial No. 09/427,454 filed October 26, 1999.

Submission of the above information is not intended as an admission that any item is citable under the statutes or rules to support a rejection, that any item disclosed represents analogous art, or that those skilled in the art would refer to or recognize the pertinence of any reference without the benefit of hindsight, nor should an inference be drawn as to the pertinence of the references based on the order in which they are presented. Submission of this statement should not be taken as an indication that a search has been conducted, or that no better art exists.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and the references made of record therein.

### FEES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>No fee is believed due in connection with this submission, because the information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).</p> <p>Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application or after the mailing date of the first Office action on the merits, whichever occurred last but before the mailing date of either:</p> <p>(1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, whichever occurs first. This Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A Certification (below) as specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e). Although no fee is believed due, if any fee is deemed due in connection with this submission, please charge such fee to Deposit Account 19-1970.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$240.00 for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the mailing date of a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under § 1.311, but before payment of the issue fee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This information Disclosure Statement includes a Certification (below) as specified by 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)</p> <p>AND</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicants hereby petition for consideration of the references disclosed herein. Enclosed is a petition fee in the amount of \$130.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1). Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement, and the enclosed check includes \$240.00 for payment of such fee. Please credit any overpayment or charge any underpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970. Election to pay the fee should not be taken as an indication that applicant(s) cannot execute a certification.</p>

**Certification (37 C.F.R. 1.97(e))**  
(Applicable only if checked)

☐ The undersigned certifies that:

☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1).

☐ A copy of the communication from the foreign patent office is enclosed.

OR

☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted,

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